

**Dutchess County Planning Board
MINUTES – May 11, 2016**

Present

Michael Dupree
Hans Hardisty
Edward Hauser
Hans Klingzahn
James Nelson
Warren Smith
John Weisman
Rick Wilhelm
Randall Williams
John Metzger, *Legislative Liaison*
Anne-Marie Smith, *County Attorney Liaison*
Michael Esposito, HG Page & Sons, *Guest*
Jennifer Cocozza, *Staff*
Brian Kehoe, *Staff*
Anne Saylor, *Staff*
Lynn Schara, *Staff*
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Absent

Colleen Cruikshank
Joel Diemond
Jill Way

Hans Klingzahn, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM. Since a quorum was not present, we could not approve the minutes at this time.

Since a guest was in attendance and our new Legislative Liaison, John Metzger, was in attendance for the first time, introductions were made by all.

At this time, a quorum was present. A motion to accept, without change, the minutes from our January 13, 2016 meeting was made by Michael Dupree, and seconded by Ed Hauser. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

A motion to accept, without change, the minutes from our February 23, 2016 meeting was made by Randall Williams, and seconded by Jim Nelson. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

Commissioner's Update, Eoin Wrafter

Eoin reported that in 2016, the Department completed 127 referrals through the end of April, which was 31% of our yearly projection of 405. We would expect a decrease due to the referral exemptions, but it's too early to say whether this is a trend or not.

Of our local municipalities, 14 of 30 have passed or adopted the Referral Exemption Agreement. The following have not: City of Poughkeepsie, Beekman, Clinton, East Fishkill, LaGrange, North East, Pawling, Stanford, Union Vale, Wappinger, Washington, Village of Millbrook, Village of Millerton, Rhinebeck, Village of Tivoli, Village of Wappingers Falls. It is our

hope that all municipalities will sign on, so we will be doing some follow up with them to see if they need assistance or have questions about the process.

Municipal Consolidated Shared Services program applications are due June 17th. In conjunction with this program is a new property tax relief grant. This grant is a one-time program for this year only to fund critical capital projects that result in meaningful and immediate savings to a local municipality to reduce or minimize a property tax levy. There is a maximum award of \$250,000 and minimum of \$20,000, with no match requirement. Those applications are due July 1st, with awards in September.

An updated list of our planners was distributed. The list reflects which planners handle which communities and also, which planner you can consult for specific topics and programs.

Partnership for Manageable Growth Program

2016 Awards- An additional \$1M has been approved in the 2016 Capital Program for Partnership for Manageable Growth. Our plan is to do another round of applications after this one.

Brian Kehoe spoke about the press release regarding the recent farmland preservation grants from Governor Cuomo's Office. NYS funded 4 farmland protection projects in Dutchess County. Of the projects that were awarded PMG funding, Caora, Duncandale and Atkins Farm all received their requested funding from NYS. Chaseholm did not receive funding. The fourth farmland project to receive NYS funding was Ronnybrook Farm at the Pine Plains/Columbia County border. NYS has announced an additional \$26M for farmland protection, available statewide, and we anticipate the local land trusts will again apply.

In sum, five of our six PMG projects have secured 100% of their funding. We will now begin to advance the projects to closing, with Steele and Manne closing as early as July 2016. The remaining farms should close around June 2017.

Funding for the PMG program is included in Dutchess County's 5-year capital program. We hope that it will be approved in the 2016 budget. In anticipation of that, a discussion of improving or changing the review process took place. As a result, the Board agreed that future applications should note the existence of statewide significant soils and applications should include a calculation showing the percentage of these soils in relation to the farm on which they exist. Also, farm tours should occur before the scoring and vote, not after.

The Board also discussed whether there is any way to improve the knowledge of the economic condition/viability of the farms in the application - it would be incredibly helpful to know. Eoin will speak with the land conservancies to see what a good metric would be for conveying this correctly in the application.

To fund our PMG projects, we will be pulling from the 2008 Open Space bond about \$160,000 left from prior projects that will be used for Manne and Steel, then the remaining money will come from the 2015 bond.

Poughkeepsie Planning Initiatives Presentation

Paul Hesse, our Community Development Coordinator, introduced himself and gave a brief background on his history with the City of Poughkeepsie. Paul also gave an exciting presentation on current projects and developments that are active or planned for the City of Poughkeepsie. He presented maps, renderings and statistics to help the board visualize the goals and future of the City and the waterfront, as well as the zoning code update. The following represents a breakdown of the various types of projects in the planning or constructions stages:

\$164M Residential and Mixed Use
\$467M Vassar Hospital Expansion
\$192M Justice Transition Center
\$22M City of Poughkeepsie Water/Sewer Upgrades
\$845M Total

Paul also touched briefly on the following:

- Future release of an RFEI for Waterfront Transit Oriented District once the MOU with MTA is finalized
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) and Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC)
- Connector between Kaal Rock Point and Waryas Park
- Fallkill Plan
- Main Street rentals
- Implement new bus line on Main Street
- New downtown zone (form based code)
- Commerce Square (temporary pop up park)
- Downtown revitalization initiative
- College Hill connectors

In summary, Paul welcomed the board to reach out to him with questions or comments, or for more details regarding any of the projects discussed.

Our next Dutchess County Planning Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 3:30 pm.

With no further business, Rick Wilhelm motioned to adjourn and Randall Williams seconded. The meeting ended at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Schara